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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME X. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Programme 43. General services

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1(1987)).

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify the relevant parts of the narrative of programme 43, General services, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1. The revisions do not reflect a fundamental change in mandate, orientation and general strategy of this programme. Rather, at the level of the subprogramme, revisions have been made to clarify and update existing text in connection with certain technological innovations projects.

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* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

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4. The following text modifies paragraphs 43.24, 43.26 and 43.27 of A/45/6/Rev.1.

A. Major programme

5. Following the restructuring of the Secretariat, it is proposed to merge major programme IX, Conference services, and major programme X, Administrative services, into a new major programme IX, Common support services.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 2. ELECTRONIC SUPPORT SERVICES

Paragraph 43.24 — Replace the penultimate sentence with "In order to ensure compatibility of systems, open architecture for hardware and software will become the standard and, wherever feasible, system-wide standards will be set for such infrastructure technology as microcomputer and local area network operating systems."

Paragraph 43.26 — Replace paragraph 43.26 (a) and 43.26 (b) with the following:

"(a) The current programme introducing microcomputers capable of performing a full range of functions will continue where the technology is shown to be cost-effective;

"(b) Connectivity among devices will be enhanced, linking work groups in local area networks with larger processors and with other networks into wide area networks to enable the exchange of full text of documents, electronic messages and images, as well as facilitating access to databases, spreadsheets and other common computer-based information;

"(c) Mainframe computers will be upgraded or down-sized as appropriate;

"(d) Disaster recovery programmes will be fully implemented;

"(e) Assistance will be given to substantive offices to facilitate access to databases by both United Nations offices and Member States by making the interfaces to such databases more user-friendly; by procuring newer, relational database technology and encouraging migration to these packages; and by organizing continuing outreach efforts to assist the user community;

"(f) Upgrading telecommunications capabilities to provide world-wide electronic communications services and network facilities at Headquarters, the major duty stations, peace-keeping operations and the specialized agencies;

"(g) Enhancing the voice communications infrastructure to replace dysfunctional equipment and to accommodate data transmission."

Paragraph 43.27 — Replace paragraph 43.27 with the following:

"43.27 The major activities of the applications analysts and programmers will centre on providing consultative expertise, rather than on systems maintenance, with maintenance transferred to user departments. Modern development tools and techniques, such as computer-aided software engineering technology and prototyping, will be introduced."